

required characteristic of the on-axis printer component; and

said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the on-axis printer component to be operably secured to the on-axis printer mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

3. (Previously Cancelled)

4. (Previously Cancelled)

5. (Previously Cancelled)

6. (Previously Cancelled)

7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. (Twice Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said separate key element further includes a display surface for visually indicating a required characteristic of the on-axis printer component.

9. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 8, wherein said display surface has a unique shape, and further including a label displaying surface indicia thereon to indicate said required characteristic of the on-axis printer component and having said unique shape for being operably secured to said display surface.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Third Amended) An inkjet printer comprising:

a chassis;

a motor;

a carriage operably secured to the chassis and driven by the motor for reciprocal movement relative to the chassis;

an on-axis ink reservoir secured to the carriage of the printer at a mounting portion, said on-axis ink reservoir having a unique pattern of tabs extending therefrom

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thereby indicating a characteristic of the ink received within the on-axis ink reservoir;
a printhead operably secured to the carriage, in fluid communication with said on-axis ink reservoir, and in electrical communication with a controller;

a discrete key element, operably secured to and separable from said mounting portion, said key element having a pattern of slots sized to receive the pattern of tabs extending from the ink reservoir, thereby allowing said ink reservoir to be operably secured to the mounting portion and preventing ink reservoirs having a different pattern of tabs from being operably secured to the first mounting portion.

12. (Third Amended) The inkjet printer of claim 11, wherein said discrete key element is detachably secured to said mounting portion.

13. (Amended) The inkjet printer of claim 11, wherein said discrete key element includes a unique slot for operably engaging a protrusion extending from said mounting portion, thereby allowing said discrete key to be secured to said mounting portion, and preventing key elements that are missing said unique slot from being secured to said mounting portion.

14. (Twice Amended) The inkjet printer of claim 11, wherein said discrete key element further includes a display surface displaying surface indicia thereon for visually indicating said characteristic of the ink received within the reservoir.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Cancelled)

17. (Previously Cancelled)

18. (Previously Cancelled)

19. (Previously Cancelled)

20. (Previously Cancelled)

21. (Twice Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer having a carriage, said mechanism comprising:

an on-axis printer component mounting portion secured to the carriage of the printer;

a key element secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said on-axis printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the on-axis printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion.

22. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element prevents similarly shaped on-axis printer components that have a different key code thereon from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

23. (Previously Cancelled)

24. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said defined key code is related to a desirable characteristic of said printer component and said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printer component.

25. (Previously Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element includes a mounting portion key element for operably engaging a mating key on said mounting portion.

26. (Previously Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the required characteristic of said printer component.

27. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink reservoir.

28. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink/printhead cartridge.

29. (Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer comprising:

a printhead mounting portion operably secured to the printer;

a separate key element secured to said printhead mounting portion, adjacent to said printhead;

at least one tab extending from the printhead, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the printhead; and

said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printhead to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printheads that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.

30. (Previously Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim 2, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

31. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said on-axis printer component is a printhead.

32. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said separate key element is detachably secured to the component mounting portion.

33. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element is detachably secured to said on-axis printer component mounting portion.

34. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

35. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink reservoir.

36. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said on-axis printer component is a printhead.

37. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said separate key element is detachably secured to said printhead mounting portion.

38. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

39. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, further including an on-axis ink reservoir in fluid communication with said printhead.

40. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said separate key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printhead.

41. (Newly Added) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer, said mechanism comprising:

a printhead mounting portion secured to the printer;

a discrete key element secured to the printhead mounting portion, adjacent to said printhead, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the printhead with the defined key code to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.

42. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 41, wherein said discrete key element is detachably secured to the printer.

43. (Newly Added) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 41, wherein said separate key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printhead.